

I am Ardith Dodie Chambers, the Treasurer of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Peshabestown, Michigan. I have served our tribe all of my adult life. In 1978, I and a group from our community carried the petition for federal recognition to Washington, D.C. On May 27, 1980, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians became the first tribe in the United States to successfully petition for Federal Recognition. Shortly, thereafter, I became our first Tribal Chairwoman. I am a descendant of Chief Peshaba, who founded the village of Peshabestown in 1852, along with a group of Ottawas.

The Grand Traverse Band consists of 3682 members. Half of our members live in our 6 county service area.

Today I will speak of our housing needs and what we hope to see happen in this legislative session.

. Our tribal housing department currently has 126 dwellings under management. The composition and funding source for these units is as follows:

29 market rental units acquired by the tribe with Revenue Allocation Ordinance "RAO" (tribal) funds for the benefit of the membership. The total capital investment exceeds \$2.5 million.

56 low rent units financed with HUD 1937 Act dollars.

16 unit low rent facility (Elders Building) financed with HUD 1937 Act dollars.

6 home ownership dwellings financed with NAHASDA dollars and modeled after the 1937 Act Mutual Help Program.

In addition, the Housing Department is currently building 6 duplex units that will be completed in the summer of 2001. Once completed, the HA will fund the project with NAHASDA dollars.

During the Spring of 2001, the Housing Department was successful with two Rural Rental Housing 515 Applications, which will provide approximately \$900,000.00 in deep

subsidy financing for 11 duplex units. The tribe will be contributing an estimated \$850,000.00 to the project. The current waiting list supports the need for more than 100 new dwelling. Some of our elders are living in adult foster care homes separated from their own people because we do not have housing for them. Others are in long –term care facilities because they do not have the necessary tribal housing . The tribe is embracing Self-Determination, but is consistently underfunded through HUD appropriations under NAHASDA.

NAHASDA Reauthorization should move forward keeping in mind the huge unmet need for 225,00 units in Indian country. (NCAI)

We would like to see:

- 1) the creation of a federal task force to work on infrastructure needs for Indian Country;
- 2) a restructuring of the HUD 184 program to make it more user-friendly;
- 3) a set-aside for the Mortgage Revenue Band Program;
- 4) federal funds going to Rural Community Assistance Program to create a 7th program specifically to assist tribes with water and sewer programs;
- 5) the continuation of the rural Housing and economic Development Program eliminated from the FY 2002 HUD Budget;
- 6) the creation of an Indian Housing representative position at each of the Federal Agencies that are involved with banking: FDIC, Federal Reserve, Federal Housing Finance board, OCC, Treasury.

We support S 132 introduced by Senator Johnson (D-SD) which would amend the International Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that housing assistance provided under the Native American Housing assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 be treated for purposes of the low-income housing credit in the same manner as comparable assistance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on our tribal housing concerns.